Nixon Disbarment Proceedings Urged

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HONOLULU, Aug. 10 (UPI)—Disbarment proceedings should be considered against former President Nixon if he decides to return to the practice of law, the president of the American Bar Association said.

ABA President Chesterfield Smith of Lakeland, Fla., also said it would be appropriate for the California or New York Bar Associations to take up the issue.

But, Smith said Friday, he doubts that Mr. Nixon would return to the legal profession.

If he does, Smith said, "it would be the appropriate time to take up the question of disbarring him."

Smith, who was in Honolulu for the ABA's annual convention, said that, although the nation should put Watergate in the past, he personally feels that Mr. Nixon should be called to account for his actions.

"No man is above the law," he told reporters, "and I don't want to let anybody go who has violated the law. But it is for the people to weigh the evidence and determine Mr. Nixon's future."

The president of the California Bar Association announced last month that it would hold a preliminary disciplinary hearing within two months for Mr. Nxon and that he would be treated "just like any other attorney in the state of California" whose professional conduct had been called into question.

55% Polled Oppose Prosecuting Nixon

In a telephone survey of 550 American voters, 55 per cent felt that an investigation of possible criminal charges against former President Nixon should be dropped. Thirty-seven per cent felt that such an investigation should continue.

Seventy-nine per cent of those surveyed believe Mr. Nixon did the right thing by resignng,i according to the poll conducted for Newsweek magazine by the Gallup Organization.

Only 13 per cent of thoss polled believe Mr. Nixon should have remained in office. The poll was conducted immediately after the resignation announcement Thursday evening.